

FROM FORTRESS MONROE.

Bombardment of Sewall's Point.

The Monitor and Naugatuck in the Fight.

SHELLING OUT THE REBELS.

THE APPEARANCE OF THE MERRIMAC.

THE MONITOR INVITES AN ATTACK.

BUT NO ENGAGEMENT AS YET.

FORTRESS MONROE, Thursday, May 2, 1862.

Shortly before noon to-day the Monitor, Naugatuck, Seminole, Susquehanna, Dacotah, and San Jacinto, in the order in which they are named, steamed up toward Sewall's Point, Capt. Gardner of the Susquehanna, in command of the expedition. As soon as within range fire was opened with shot and shell against Sewall's Point. Most of the shot were good ones. It was nearly half an hour before a reply was made from the Point.

The Rip Raps next opened fire, and then the Naugatuck for the first time. Several shots were fired from the single gun on the extremity of the Point, when one from the Monitor struck in the vicinity, doubtless disabling the gun, as it has not been fired since. The position of the Monitor was far in advance of the rest of the fleet, and she continued in motion until a mile or two of the Point, when considerable execution must have been done by her accurate firing.

The Naugatuck kept in the back ground, the range of her Parrott gun enabling her to do so. Sewall's Point battery replied briskly. The Rip Raps fired occasionally, and a continual fire was kept up from the gunboats. The affair was comparatively uninteresting from this point of view on account of the distance, so details cannot be given. At about 1 o'clock a black smoke was seen to arise, supposed to have been occasioned by combustible shells being thrown into the woods. It soon died away, however, and disappeared.

Nothing more occurred until a little before two o'clock, when the firing was very feeble from the Point. The Monitor about this time returned from her advanced position and joined the fleet. In the distance nothing of her could be seen but a small square dot in the water. At 2 o'clock a very dense black smoke arose rapidly from the Point, caused probably by the burning of the Rebel barracks or other buildings. At about 2 o'clock the Merrimac made her appearance, when the fleet returned, with the exception of the Monitor. The Merrimac is still (5 o'clock) of the Point. The Monitor is ready to attack her. The Seminole has returned to the lower Roads. There is no prospect of a fight at present.

5 o'clock.—The Monitor has returned. The Merrimac is in same position.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT.

BALTIMORE, Friday, May 3, 1862.
The special correspondent of *The American* sends the following relative to affairs in Hampton Roads and the Peninsula:

FORTRESS MONROE, Thursday, May 2, 1862.

This has been a most stirring and exciting day at Old Point, and all are anticipating the early fall of Norfolk.

11 o'clock—the steamer Naugatuck was observed raising steam, and about 12 o'clock she moved out by the side of the Monitor, which vessel had also cleared her dock for action, taken down her awning and pipes, and stood forth in full fighting trim.

11:30 o'clock.—The gunboat Dacotah has just moved up in line of battle with two little batteries, followed by the sloop-of-war Seminole, and the San Jacinto. The flag-ship Minnesota is also under steam.

12 o'clock.—The Naugatuck moves up and takes the lead of the San Jacinto and Seminole. No answer from either of the Rebel forts, and the Dacotah and Monitor are steaming up Elizabeth River.

The Naugatuck is moving toward the mouth of the James River. Presently the Dacotah and Monitor approach Craney Island and Sewall's Point. In the mean time the Dacotah, Monitor, and Naugatuck had reached the channel and taken a position off Sewall's Point, and the Dacotah fired a shot toward Craney Island; a second shot from the Dacotah struck the beach at Sewall's Point.

12:30 o'clock.—The Susquehanna moves up and takes the lead of the San Jacinto and Seminole. No answer from either of the Rebel forts, and the Dacotah and Monitor are steaming up Elizabeth River.

The Naugatuck is moving off toward the mouth of the James River. Presently the Dacotah and Monitor approach Craney Island and Sewall's Point. The Dacotah fires every few minutes, alternately at Sewall's Point and Craney Island, the enemy making no reply, although all the guns reach their destination. The Monitor is now taking the lead, but has not fired. In the mean time the Seminole and Susquehanna open on Sewall's Point, and two shots are fired from the Point, the latter falling short of the Monitor, which is now a mile above the other vessels.

12:40 o'clock.—The Rebels are firing rapidly from Sewall's Point, principally at the Monitor, while a continual succession of shells are being poured on the enemy from the Susquehanna, Dacotah, Seminole and San Jacinto, broadside after broadside. The Rip Raps also throw occasional shells into Sewall's Point.

12:50 o'clock.—The Susquehanna, Dacotah, San Jacinto, and Seminole are pouring shells, and the Monitor threw her first two shells from a point full a mile and a half ahead of the other vessels. The guns from Sewall's Point fall short of the regular fleet, and many of them explode high in the air half distance. The Monitor is still moving forward, firing an occasional shot, while the Rip Raps and a float lying in line of battle, are still firing steadily.

1 o'clock p.m.—The Monitor is now within a mile of Sewall's Point, moving slowly forward and firing. The enemy are also firing briskly from Sewall's Point at the Monitor, and shells are falling thickly around her. Craney Island is also joining in the fight, and has just thrown several shells at the Monitor, one of which exploded directly over her. The Monitor moved steadily forward, occasionally firing and receiving shells and shot from the Rebel batteries with perfect indifference.

2 o'clock.—During the past hour there has been but little if any change in the progress of the bombardment. The Monitor has fallen back, and lies alongside of the Susquehanna, probably for the purpose of communicating with her. The Naugatuck, in the mean time, has been throwing shells into Pig Point, and the fleet has also thrown a number of shells in the same direction.

2:15 p.m.—The Monitor and Dacotah are moving along again, slowly, up the mouth of the Elizabeth River. A dense black smoke has commenced to rise from Sewall's Point, indicating that our incendiary shells thrown there have fired the barracks. The Dacotah continues to throw her shells directly into the Point, the explosions of which can be distinctly seen. The shells from the Point mostly fall short, and splash along in the water, or explode in the air, the constant changing in position of our vessels destroying the range of the Rebel gunners.

They are, however, making quite a determined fight from their works, giving our fleet almost shell for shell and shot for shot. Sewall's Point is almost enveloped in smoke from the constant explosion of shells and the smoke from its own guns, and the fire raging in the vicinity must make a hot place for suffering humanity.

2:30 p.m.—The Monitor has lain out of action for nearly an hour. She is probably cooling her guns. Four larger vessels throw occasional shots all of which appear to enter the works of the enemy or explode within a constant roar. The Rip Raps also keep up a constant cross-fire, throwing a large number of shells in the rear of the Point bat.

The Rip Raps battery has the range of Sewall's Point perfectly.

2:45 p.m.—The Rebel monitor, Merrimac, now makes her appearance on the scene. She has just passed from behind Sewall's Point, and is moving down slowly toward the Union Point. Her

black hull can be seen moving slowly along shore in front of the Craney Island batteries. Simultaneous with the appearance of the Merrimac the Monitor started up from behind the wooden vessels and moved out to meet the enemy. Dense volumes of smoke from the pipes of the Merrimac.

The Monitor, with only a puff of white steam escaping, looks like a distance like an atom on the surface of the water. The larger vessels have drawn aside and left. The Monitor and the Naugatuck are now in the approaching path of the Merrimac. The contestants are at two miles apart.

3 o'clock.—The Minnesota fires her signal gun and the long-rod is being beaten in the fort. The Minnesota is starting to come up from her anchorage below the fort. The vessels of the fleet had been lying quietly at anchor for the last half hour, when the signal from the flag-ship ordered them all to return. The Susquehanna led the way, followed by the San Jacinto, Seminole, Dacotah, and the Monitor bringing up the rear, all apparently using the greatest speed toward the fort.

To spectators this seemed rather mortifying, but as they moved down in line the Monitor was observed to sail, and the San Jacinto and Dacotah also followed her example, leaving the Susquehanna and Seminole moving ahead. The four steamers and the Monitor having taken their positions, the Merrimac also sailed, and the five vessels stood thus not more than a mile and a half apart, the Merrimac apparently not willing to come further down, and the Monitor unwilling to go further up.

The Minnesota also steamed up in front of the Fortress wharf, followed slowly by the Vanderbilt. After lying in this position, the Minnesota turned around and steamed back, and the Vanderbilt, without turning, backed water slowly down the river. While all this manœuvring was going on, fire had entirely ceased from all points.

The Merrimac now turns round and steams back toward Norfolk. The Dacotah is flying impudently. The Baltimore steamer Georgia has lain out in the stream, with steam up, all the afternoon, ready to escape from danger at the earliest moment. The Minnesota and Vanderbilt have gone back to their anchorage.

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3:45 p.m.—For the past hour the fleet has been moving back and forward, but the Merrimac still lies under the guns of Craney Island.

The Monitor is lying about a mile and a half from the Merrimac, and the Dacotah, Susquehanna, and Seminole are still in the rear. The Naugatuck is also moving up toward the Monitor.

The Minnesota, Arago, and Vanderbilt have gone back to their anchorage, and there is no prospect of fight to-night.

The troops are going on board the transports, and the war vessels, including the Monitor, have all returned to their anchorage.

The President viewed the action from a tug-boats lying about a mile in the rear of the fleet. The Merrimac is still moving up toward the Point.

The Monitor is ready to attack her. The Seminole has returned to the lower Roads. There is no prospect of a fight at present.

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12:50 o'clock.—The Susquehanna, Dacotah, San Jacinto, and Seminole are pouring shells, and the Monitor threw her first two shells from a point full a mile and a half ahead of the other vessels. The guns from Sewall's Point fall short of the regular fleet, and many of them explode high in the air half distance. The Monitor is still moving forward, firing an occasional shot, while the Rip Raps and a float lying in line of battle, are still firing steadily.

1 o'clock p.m.—The Monitor is now within a mile of Sewall's Point, moving slowly forward and firing. The enemy are also firing briskly from Sewall's Point at the Monitor, and shells are falling thickly around her. Craney Island is also joining in the fight, and has just thrown several shells at the Monitor, one of which exploded directly over her. The Monitor moved steadily forward, occasionally firing and receiving shells and shot from the Rebel batteries with perfect indifference.

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